

CLASSIFICATION

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Dessau-Rosslau-Bitterfeld-

Zerbst Area

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 11 October 1951

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REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The troops in the engineer camp between Brambach (N 52/E 07) and Rietzmeck discontinued the construction of bridges on 25 August 1951. However, the camp was still occupied on 26 August and between 3 and 23 September. About 600 troops were engaged in the last bridge-building practice observed on 25 August. The training of the troops in the engineer camp southeast of the Pionierschule at Rosslau continued. Source believed that the camp was even enlarged. (1) 25X1
2. Four troop trains passed through Rosslau toward Dessau between 21 and 23 September. Three of them carried artillery units, and one a motorcycle unit of about 80 sidecar motorcycles and some jeeps. German laborers in the barracks installation at Meinsdorf stated that trains from the U.S.S.R. had been unloaded in Meinsdorf, but that other troops had also been entrained there. (2) The barracks installation was only partially occupied. The informants said that the majority of the division was still in Letzling Heath. (3) 25X1
3. An engineer unit of about 500 troops was seen marching from Dessau to Rosslau on the evening of 14 September. Each company averaged about 100 men and was equipped with 6 heavy machine-guns. About 120 engineer troops, equipped in the same manner, were seen marching from Rosslau to Dessau in the afternoon of 16 September. (1) 25X1
4. A convoy of about 11 trucks carrying 200 troops and towing eight 76.2-mm guns moved from Rosslau to Dessau on 10 September. A convoy of 12 trucks carrying about 100 troops and towing 12 x 120-mm mortars drove from Rosslau to Dessau at noon of the same day. 25X1
5. A convoy of 4 trucks towing trailers was seen driving toward Halle (N 52/D 92) on the autobahn between Graefenhainichen (N 52/E 25) and Hiemeck (N 52/E 24) on the morning of 13 September. (4) 25X1

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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6. No troops were quartered in the Scharnhorst Kaserne in Zerbst (M 52/D 93), which has been occupied by German families since 1945. Between 13 and 21 September, the Gneisenau Kaserne quartered about 300 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Most of the troops were recruits who practiced primarily at squad level, and sometimes at platoon level, with and without arms. No artillery pieces were noticed in the billeting area. The gun sheds were always locked. (3)

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Comments

- (1) The report indicates that the special engineer training in the two camps on the Elbe River west of Dessau and southeast of Rosslau continued throughout the end of September.
- (2) These four troop trains are reported for the first time. Their movement may have been connected with the field exercises believed to have been conducted in the Dessau-Bitterfeld-Wittenberg area since the middle of September 1951, and during which vehicles of components of the Third and Fourth Gds Recz Armies and the Eighth Gds Army were observed.

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- (3) The incoming troop trains were reported from the border crossing points along the Oder-Neisse line. The light occupation of the Pionierschule at Rosslau was also reported by another source on 10 and 19 September 1951. See [redacted] The 7th Gds Tank Div, which, in addition to the 36th Pon Bridge Regt of the GDFG, is stationed there, was still confirmed at Letzling Heath by analysis [redacted].

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However, the weapons and motor vehicles mentioned in Paragraph 4 of the present report indicate that components of the division were back at their Rosslau military post as early as 10 September 1951. Paragraph 6 of the present report indicates that a large training unit, which another source classified as a tank unit on 10 September 1951, was located in Zerbst in the middle of September 1951. The information covering the short period from 10 to 22 September 1951 confirms that the 7th Gds Tank Div was no longer as a whole at Letzling Heath in the middle of September.

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